

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 02777 261835Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EURE-00 SS-15 EB-07 SP-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4040

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 2777

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EO 111652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA ETRD XH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TO BUDAPEST

REF: A. STATE 200242

B. BUDAPEST 2765

C. STATE 199074

1. DURING CONVERSATION AUGUST 26 WITH PRESIDENT HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE KALLOS RE VISIT OF COMMERCE DAS DOWNEY, DCM LEARNED THAT GOH HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM HUNGARIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF DOWNEY TRIP TO BUDAPEST (REF A) IS TO PREPARE FOR VISIT OF COMMERCE SECRETARY ROGERS MORTON IN OCTOBER. KALLOS ASKED FOR SPECIFICS. DCM REPLIED THAT HE COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT VISIT BY SECRETARY MORTON IS IMMINENT. HOWEVER, HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY SEEK CLARIFICATIBN FROM WASHINGTON AND INFORM KALLOS OF RESULTS. MEANWHILE, ALSO ON AUGUST 26, AMERICAN DESK AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE ADVISED EMBOFF OF LETTR WHICH COMMERCE SENT TO HUNGARIAN EMBASSY ADVISING THAT DOWNEY (A) PLANNED TO BE IN BUDAPEST SEPT 4-5; (B) WISHED ONLY APPOINTMENTS WITH EMBASSY AND DID NOT SEEK HUNGARIAN EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH GOH OFFICIALS; AND (C) SOUGHT TO PREPARE TERRAIN FOR VISIT BY SECRETARY MORTON IN OCTOBER.

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 02777 261835Z

2. FYI: KALLOS EARLIER HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HOSTING WINCHEON FOR DAS DOWNEY AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO BE FOLLOWED BY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH SOME 20-25 ENTERPRISE MANAGERS, TRADE SPECIALISTS, MINISTRY OFFICIALS, ETC. KALLOS NOW SAYS HE IS UNABLE TO MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL FONOFF HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION FROM EMBASSY OF PURPOSE OF DOWNEY TRIP AND HIS INTEREST IN SUCH A PROGRAM. END FYI.

3. IN PROCESS OF CARRYING OUT REQUEST CONTAINED IN REFTEL C WE ALSO DISCOVERED THAT ROBERT BINDER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PLANS, POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, PLANNING TO VISIT BUDAPEST TO MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS SEPT 11-12. WE ALSO LEARNED FROM ROMUNDO (SEE PARA 2, REFTEL C) THAT BINDER VISIT HAD "WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL" AND THAT HE (ROMUNDO) HAS BEEN HERE SEVERAL TIMES IN PAST, MOST RECENTLY LAST MAY. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON ON THESE VISITS EITHER.

4. WE WELCOME ENTHUSIASTICALLY POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY MORTON TO BUDAPEST AND ARE CERTAIN HUNGARIANS WILL RECEIVE HIM IN THEIR USUAL GRACEFUL AND HOSPITABLE FASHION. EMBASSY STANDS READY TO ASSIST IN EVERY WAY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED RE POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY SECRETARY MORTON, TIMING, PURPOSE OF VISIT, SIZE OF PARTY, ETC. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING MORE OF DETAILS RE VISIT OF ASST. TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY BINDER, INCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT HIS VISIT IS OFFICIAL. WE ASSUME PLANNING FOR VISITS BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BINDER AND SECRETARY MORTON HAVE BEEN COORDINATED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S SEPT 14-16 VISIT.
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